

Energizing teachers. Inspiring students.

Creating a relevant and engaging curriculum with smartphones.

Lenny Schad, chief information officer for the Katy Independent School District (Katy ISD), spends a lot of time studying how the students in his district use technology.

His conclusion? "Kids use cell phones in everything they do," says Schad. "Give them a cell phone and a notebook, and they spend the majority of their time on the cell phone."

And from that observation, Katy ISD's pioneering mobile learning program was born.

Bridging the gap between teaching and learning.

Outside the classroom, most kids inhabit a digital world, chatting, texting, emailing, and surfing the Web. But inside, there are far more kids than computers, creating a disconnect between the way kids learn and communicate at home versus school.

By bringing smartphones into the classroom, Schad and other progressive educators are not only introducing fresh and innovative teaching methods, they're creating an affordable, individual (or personal) computing environment in which kids are flourishing.

"This is how kids operate," says Schad. "All we're doing is taking a device that they use 17 hours a day, bringing it into the classroom, and turning it into a learning tool."

Smartphones + GoKnow! Mobile Learning Environment = higher test scores.

Today's smartphones are more powerful than yesterday's desktop computers. They're also durable, easy to use, and cost considerably less than notebooks, netbooks, and desktops.

Paired with GoKnow!® Mobile Learning Environment software and a Verizon Wireless private network, smartphones provide a dynamic learning environment, allowing teachers to transform paper-and-pencil lessons into relevant and engaging hands-on projects.

In Schad's district, the result has been a 25- to 30-point increase in math and science scores, and a burst of enthusiasm and creativity in both students and teachers.

"Whether you're a first-year teacher or a 20-year veteran, the year you start using mobile learning devices is going to be the most impactful of your career," he says. "You'll experience a whole new way of teaching and learning."





Spotlight on Katy Independent School District.

Katy ISD is a flourishing suburban school district in eastern Texas, serving approximately 58,000 students in 52 schools.

Challenges:

- + Inspire students to become more engaged, and increase their technological skills.
- + Provide every student with an Internet-capable learning device on a limited budget.

Solution:

- + Put Verizon Wireless smartphones in the hands of 150 fifth graders.
- + Equip the smartphones with:
 - Verizon Wireless Mobile Broadband service, for Internet access both inside and outside the classroom.
 - GoKnow! Mobile Learning Environment software.
 - Windows Mobile® Microsoft® Word Mobile, Microsoft Excel® Mobile, and Microsoft Office PowerPoint®
- + Create a private network so that kids can only access school-approved Web sites, and turn off text and mobile phone capabilities so they can't be used for socializing.

Results:

- + Students learned responsibility: Only one out of 150 smartphones was damaged during the 2009-2010 school year.
- + Math and science test scores increased by 25 to 30 points.
- + Disciplinary problems decreased.
- + Attendance improved.
- + Students are more engaged in learning.
- + Teachers are more enthusiastic about teaching.
- + Parents are highly supportive of the program.
- + The district is expanding the program to 1,500 smartphones and fifth graders for the 2010-2011 school year.

For more information, please contact your Verizon Wireless education representative, or visit b2b.vzw.com/industrysolutions/education.html.

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—LENNY SCHAD
CIO, KATY ISD

